

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF WILLITON

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE
YEAR 1964.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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WILLITON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1964

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my annual report upon the health and sanitation of your district for the year 1964.

Very few cases of infectious disease have been reported and the general health of the population continues to be very good. The following sections deal with the work of the department during the year, together with vital statistics and general public health services.

<u>Section A.</u>	Vital Statistics and Social Conditions.
<u>Section B.</u>	Water Supplies, Sewage and Refuse Disposal.
<u>Section C.</u>	Housing.
<u>Section D.</u>	Food Inspection and Supplies.
<u>Section E.</u>	Public Health Nuisances, Complaints, Etc.
<u>Section F.</u>	Caravans & Camping.
<u>Section G.</u>	Other Acts administered by the Department.
<u>Section H.</u>	Summary of Inspections and Visits by Health Department Officers.

Section A.
Vital Statistics & Social Conditions.

The district continues to attract an increasing number of holiday-makers and tourists yearly with a corresponding heavy increase in motor traffic. This places a considerable strain on local resources and serves to highlight the inadequacy of the existing roads. Development of a residential character continues but at a reduced rate, due in the main to the scarcity and consequent high cost of building sites.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	97,364 acres
Population	(estimated mid-year home population)					14,050
Number of Dwelling Houses	...	...	...	...		4,789
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£354,866	
Estimated Product of a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£1,380	

<u>Live Births.</u>				<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	...	...	...	79	91	170
Illegitimate	...	...	...	8	9	17
				87	100	187

Birth Rate per thousand population ... 13.3

<u>Still Births.</u>		
Legitimate	...	Nil
Illegitimate	...	Nil

<u>Deaths.</u>				<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
From all causes	...	...	...	103	95	198
Death Rate per thousand population	...			14.09		

Health Services.
The district is served by Hospitals at Minehead and Musgrove Park, Taunton, and Hospitals for the Aged Sick at Williton, Bridgwater and Taunton. Ambulance services are available from Minehead and Musgrove Park.

<u>Notifiable Diseases.</u>			<u>Cases Notified.</u>
Smallpox	...	...	Nil
Scarlet Fever	...	...	1
Diphtheria	...	...	Nil
Enteric Fever	...	...	"
Measles	...	...	9
Whooping Cough	...	...	9
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	Nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	"
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	...	...	"
Dysentery	...	...	"
Malaria	...	...	"
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	"
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	"
Erysipelas	...	...	1
Q.Fever	...	...	Nil
Food Poisoning	...	...	"
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	...	...	3
" (Non-respiratory)	...	...	Nil

Section B.

Water Supplies.

In general, the quality of public water supplies has been satisfactory. Routine sampling has revealed occasional contamination of small local sources but remedial measures were taken as soon as possible.

The quantity of water has been adequate, with the exception of the Carhampton/Withycombe supply. In this locality, insufficient mains water has curtailed development, especially in Carhampton village. Generally the district came through the long, dry summer without any acute shortages.

Plumbo-solvency of the Dunster supply, with the consequent aggressive action upon metal, has resulted in negotiations with the owners to treat the water, and remedial measures are to be put in hand.

The owners of the Blue Anchor supply have installed permanent chlorinating equipment, at the request of this Authority, to overcome the increased contamination which has been evident during the past few years.

Results of samples from piped supplies are as follows :-

<u>Raw Water</u>			
<u>Bacteriological</u>	Satisfactory-	54	Unsatisfactory- 21
<u>Chemical</u>	"	13	" Nil
<u>Treated Water</u>			
<u>Bacteriological</u>	"	189	" 19
<u>Chemical</u>	"	56	" 3

Refuse Disposal


Disposal is on four semi-controlled tips, and twenty-nine parishes are receiving regular collections of refuse. Williton, Porlock and Dunster are collected weekly with fortnightly collections for the remainder. Special collections are arranged in the case of the Parish of Oare.

Negotiations are proceeding with a view to the establishment of new disposal sites to replace the Bossington and Strington ones which are now full.

Towards the end of the year it was agreed by the Council to start a direct labour refuse collection service to commence in April, 1965, and to this end, the Chief Public Health Inspector has been instructed to negotiate for the purchase of suitable vehicles and equipment and the engagement of the necessary staff.

Sewage Disposal.

There are now twelve Parishes with main drainage and efficient disposal systems. Work on the scheme covering the Parishes of Bicknoller Sampford Brett, Stogumber and West Quantoxhead has now commenced.



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Section C.

Housing.

There are now 4,789 permanent dwellings in the district of which number, 837 are owned by the Local Authority, with a further 48 private enterprise and 8 local authority houses in course of erection. Applications in the lists for Council houses amounted to 218. This considerable reduction over the previous years' figures is the result of bringing the lists up to date by the elimination of applicants from outside the Council's area and the removal of other non-urgent cases.

Grant-aided schemes under the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958, completed during the year totalled 57. Discretionary grants awarded were 40 at an average approval price of £280. 5s., and Standard grants were 17, at an average of £110.

No cases of overcrowding have been reported.

The position with regard to housing sites remains difficult with the consequent result that high prices are the rule.

The Rent Act, 1957.

There have been no applications for Certificates of Disrepair.

Section D.

Food Inspection & Supplies.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number inspected.	1908	13	95	10065	4826
<u>All diseases except T.B. and Cysticerci.</u>					
Whole carcases condemned	3	1	5	18	7
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	272	11	Nil	418	337
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B. and Cysticerci.	14.4	92.3	5.2	4.3	7.1
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>					
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	81
Percentage of the number inspected affected with T.B.	-	-	-	-	1.6
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	20	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Submitted to refrigeration	20	-	-	-	-
Totally condemned	Nil	-	-	-	-
Weight of meat condemned (lbs)					
(a) Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	779
(b) Cysticercosis	344	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Other	3262	975	300	5694	350
	3606	975	300	5694	1129

Slaughtering & Slaughterhouses.

There has been an overall rise over the previous year of 27.2% in the number of animals slaughtered, and 100% inspection has been maintained.

Five licenced slaughterhouses are operating.

Food Premises, Etc.

Although the standard of food hygiene throughout the district generally is maintained at a high level, informal action was necessary in 20 cases for minor infringements of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1960.

Section E.

Public Health Nuisances, Complaints, Etc.

Complaints received and dealt with during the year numbered 122. These were all of the usual type of complaint met with in a rural area, and all were effectively dealt with by the department's officers.

Section F.

Caravans & Camping.

There are 15 licenced sites in your district all of which comply with the Ministry "Model Standards".

The problem, which is an increasing one, is that of the seasonal influx of caravans and tents. Lay-byes and verges are occupied increasingly each year, and the problem of litter and lack of sanitation is aggravated accordingly, thus highlighting the pressing need for the provision of additional accommodation of an approved standard for this type of holiday maker.

Under existing legislation, six weeks camping is allowed without any enforceable standards of sanitation, and whilst this loophole in the law remains, so also will the problem.

Section G.

Factories Act, 1937.

There are in the district 52 factories including 5 licenced slaughterhouses. The majority of the others are of the light engineering type where machinery of some kind is in use, whilst several are of a temporary nature, such as building sites, etc.

Outworkers resident in the district number 42, of which six are employed by firms operating outside the district.

The Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963.

Inspections under the above Act have commenced and the implementing of it's provisions is bound to make fairly heavy demands upon the staff of the department.

Pet Animals Act.

Rag Flock Act.

There are no pet shops within the district or premises dealing in rag flock.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The Council's operative has been fully employed during the year and in the course of his duties has actually recovered 1640 dead rats. Also dealt with successfully were 34 wasps nests and 4 hornets nests. The arrangement with the Watchet U.D.C. continues.

Treatments and inspections are as follows :-

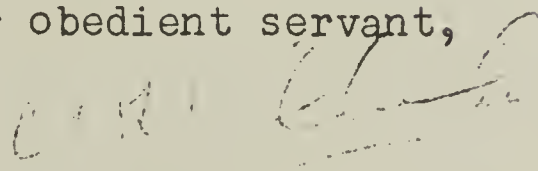
<u>Property.</u>		<u>Inspected.</u>	<u>Treated.</u>
Domestic	...	437	316
Agricultural	...	188	28
Business	...	60	7
Local Authority	...	17	18

<u>Section H.</u>		
<u>Housing Acts - 1936 & 1954.</u>		
<u>Rent Act, 1957.</u>		
<u>Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958.</u>		
Housing Inspections	...	446
Informal Notices Served	...	11
Statutory Notices Served	...	5
<u>Public Health Acts.</u>		
<u>Inspections.</u>		
Drainage & Sewerage	...	367
Water Supplies	...	64
Refuse Disposal	...	139
Caravans & Camping	...	103
Nuisances	...	123
Filthy or Verminous Premises	...	22
Persons in Need of Care & Attention	...	2
Public Conveniences	...	7
Infectious Diseases	...	8
Miscellaneous Inspections	...	33
Informal Notices Served	...	30
<u>Food & Drugs Acts.</u>		
<u>Inspections</u>		
Slaughterhouses	...	218
Food & Catering Premises	...	45
Unsound Food	...	29
Informal Notices Served	...	8
Factories Act.	...	20
<u>Inspections.</u>		
Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957.	...	4
<u>Inspections</u>		
Informal Notices Served	...	7
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963.	...	1
<u>Inspections</u>		
Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963.	...	17
<u>Inspections</u>		
	...	20
 Complaints Received		
" Investigated	...	122
	...	122

Once again I should like to thank the staff of the department for their continued good work.

I am, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,



M.B., Ch.B.

Medical Officer of Health.

